ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed in a thin-client system operative over a communications network to provide a thin-client device with resources present at the server. The server includes a communication control device that sends and receives messages over the network, and an operating system. Further, the server has access to a data base with capability to store certain applications executable on its operating system. Meanwhile, the client device includes a display, an external communication device for sending messages to the server and receiving messages from the server over the network, and a dedicated client scheme for controlling the display and the external communications device. Messages between the client device and the server conform to a control-oriented protocol that restricts the type of message permissible for transmission to only those descriptive of certain preselected events that are necessary for execution of a dedicated application on the server. The protocol excludes many user actions that otherwise would be transmitted to the server from the client device according to conventional display-based protocols. The present invention further contemplates methods for so enabling a thin-client device to use server resources, and also computer-readable mediums containing software for carrying out such methods on appropriately equipped servers and client devices.